

STATE OF WASHINGTON EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Approved by the

Federal Communications Commission, March 3, 1997

Minutes of the State Emergency Communication Committee Meeting

[<<Back](#)

July 9, 2014

Present: Terry Spring-KWPX TV; Roy Benevente-WSEM; Nat George-KGY; Mark Allen-WSAB; Ruth Brownstein-KAOS; Clay Freinwald-WSU; Ted Buehner-NWS Seattle

Via Phone: Marty Hatfield-Clear Channel Seattle; Carri Gordon-WSP; Tom Sharp-Pierce County; Beau Wentthrow-Wahkiakum County; Diana Bell-WSU; Charlie Cannatidto-Montana Broadcasters Association; Chris Foltz-NWS Great Falls; Matt Green-Cowlitz County; Phil Johnson-CPS Chair; Marlin Jackson-KXLY; Don White-Tribune; Jill Kangas-Lewis County DEM

Clay Freinwald called the meeting to order. Introductions were made and the previous minutes were approved.

The Washington State EAS plan is now coming on line. See http://www.emd.wa.gov/telcom/telecom_eas_plan.shtml. Tab 10 is being divided into the different operational areas. Each station only has to download the file for their local area. They are being worked on so they are not up yet.

Clay made a trip to Montana to help them get their SECC up and running. A couple of the participants attended this meeting. They reported that the training was helpful and that there is much work to be done. FEMA also participated. They sent someone from the national office.

There are changes in the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum local area. Doug Fisher has moved away and Matt Green has taken his place. Their local station changed hands several years ago, and the new ownership pulled out of EAS. Now, new management might become involved again.

There also changes in the Mason/Thurston area. The LP1, KGY-AM, has been sold and will soon be simulcasting KBLE in Seattle. KYYO-FM might be the new LP1. This will be decided by the local LACC.

For official opinions on FCC rules for EAS, or any other regulations, don't go to the local FCC inspector. Contact the FCC Headquarters in Washington. For EAS, talk to Greg Cook or Bonnie Gay.

In old business, the various local plans are being posted on line. There are quite a few that are missing. There was a suggestion that a "one sheet" might be helpful for the LACC's. This might include expectations and a check list. Items might include getting local plans revised and on line, maintain a roster of the local "players", and keeping track of local call sign and ownership changes. A planning and brain storming session has been scheduled for Tuesday July 22 at 9AM at the state emergency management office. Details will be on the remailer.

The local plans should be posted online as PDF's. It makes them easier to reproduce.

It was noted that broadcast engineers are not the only people that can be on a LACC to work on EAS. It is useful to have people from different backgrounds.

Should we have more meetings away from Camp Murray? The response was positive. Feel free to respond on the remailer. The May meeting in Ellensburg was a success. We will be meeting there again next May.

In new business, the EAS proposed rulemaking from the FCC was discussed. A letter from Gary Timm regarding a requirement for a data table showing how EAS propagates was discussed. This will be posted on the remailer. Under the FCC proposal, the EAS participants would be responsible for maintaining it. The question is whether this is OK, or whether it would be better maintained, or vetted, by the SECC's. This could mean that individual stations could be picking their own monitoring assignments. There is a lot of information involved. Mark Allen will be collecting comments for a reply to the FCC. You can put your comments on the remailer.

The new EAS web site hosted by Emergency Management was discussed. See http://www.emd.wa.gov/telcom/telecom_eas_plan.shtml. There are links at the bottom of the page for EAS information from the FCC and FEMA. There is also a link for subscribing to the remailer. What other links should be there? A link to the SECC minutes archive? Suggestions are welcome on the remailer. The WSAB web site formerly hosted the EAS plan. They will have links to the new web site. They will continue to host the minutes archive.

At the National Weather Service, it is expected that the new transmitter for the Mount Octopus site will be put in service within the next month. Starting as soon as July 21, the NOAA campus may be requiring different types of ID to enter, such as an enhanced driver's license or a passport. If this happens, the information will be on the remailer before any meeting that is scheduled there.

The Mason/Thurston LACC will be meeting on July 24 somewhere in Olympia. Details will be posted.

Terry Spring